Truancy

The Board acknowledges that student absences from school for any reason, whether excused or unexcused, take away from instructional time and have an adverse effect on student learning.

A student cannot be suspended, expelled or removed from school solely because of unexcused absences.

The Board endeavors to reduce truancy through cooperation with parents, diligence in investigating the causes of absence and use of strict guidelines in regard to tardiness and unexcused absence.

When the Board determines that a student has been truant and that the parent, guardian or other person having care of a child has failed to ensure the child's attendance at school, State law authorizes the Board to require the parent to attend a specified educational program.

This program has been established according to the rules adopted by the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce for the purpose of encouraging parental involvement in compelling the child's attendance at school.

On the request of the Superintendent, or when it comes to the attention of the school attendance officer or other appropriate officer of the District, the designated officer must investigate any case of supposed truancy within the District and must warn the child, if found truant, and notify the child's parent in writing of the legal consequences of being a "habitual" truant. The written notice may be delivered by regular mail with a certificate of mailing, or other form of delivery with proof of delivery, including electronic delivery and electronic proof of delivery.

A "habitual truant" is any child of compulsory school age who is absent without a legitimate excuse for 30 or more consecutive hours, 42 or more hours in one month or 72 or more hours in a school year.

The parent is required to have the child attend school immediately after notification. If the parent fails to get the child to attend school, the attendance officer or other appropriate officer, if directed by the Superintendent or the Board, must send notice requiring the child's parent to attend a parental education program.

Regarding "habitual truants," the Board will take as an intervention strategy any appropriate action contained in Board policy.

Filing a Complaint With Juvenile Court

The attendance officer must file a complaint against the student in juvenile court alleging a child is an unruly child for being a habitual truant and that the parent, guardian or other person having care of the child has violated RC 3321.38 when any of the following apply:

1. the student was absent without legitimate excuse for 30 or more consecutive hours;

2. the student was absent without legitimate excuse for 42 or more hours in a school month;

3. the student was absent without legitimate excuse for 72 hours or more in a school year.

If the District determines that the student and the student's family are making satisfactory progress in improving the student's attendance at school, the attendance officer will not file a complaint.

If no determination of satisfactory progress is made by the District, or the student and the student's family cease to continue making progress in improving the student's attendance, the attendance officer must file a complaint in juvenile court against the student.

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June 20, 2018
October 16, 2019
October 18, 2023
October 16, 2024
June 18, 2025
October 15, 2025
July 15, 2026

Ohio Administrative Code

OAC 3301-47-01	Establishment of an education program for parents of truant students

Ohio Revised Code

ORC 3313.663	Parental education or training program
ORC 3313.668	Removal based on absences; removal from grades pre-k through three; civil immunity, decisions not to provide mental health services
ORC 3320.04	Religious accommodations for public school students
ORC 3321.03 through 3321.04	Parent's obligation to see that child receives instruction

ORC 3321.07 through 3321.09	Requirements for child instructed at other than public school
ORC 3321.16	Investigation of nonattendance; complaint
ORC 3321.19	Examination into cases of truancy - failure of parent, guardian or responsible person to cause child's attendance at school
ORC 3321.191	Student absence policies
ORC 3321.22	Juvenile court proceedings
ORC 3321.38	Prohibiting failure to send child to school

Cross References

Code	
AFI	Evaluation of Educational Resources
JECE	Student Withdrawal From School
JED	Student Absences and Excuses
JEDC	Religious Expression Days
JEG	Exclusions and Exemptions from School Attendance
JK	Employment of Students